

I have been a subscriber to Satellite Radio for almost 2 years. I live in a fairly isolated community in Northern Arizona with limited radio coverage. Satellite radio provides me with coverage that I cannot receive either because of lack of available radio broadcasts or awful programming choices (clear channel). When I travel not only is the radio used for entertainment, I use it for keeping up with news events, and the addition of weather and traffic has been a godsend. I travel to Phoenix on a regular basis, which has a plethora of stations, but I do not want to listen to mind-numbing programming to get traffic or weather reports. On Satellite radio, I can listen to the programming I choose, and then switch to instant traffic without hesitation, without having to "skip" through numerous stations. I have also relied on weather and traffic from outside my area (like San Francisco) to judge whether flights might be delayed when arranging for picking up traveling family. This CANNOT be gotten from any local radio.

I chose to pay a premium when I signed on with satellite, because the "free" radio programming was not to my liking. This was a choice that I made, and to call this unfair competition is ludicrous. If my local radio stations did a better job of programming, perhaps I would feel different. It appears the "free marketplace" is meant for only those companies with no competition. Granting any special status to them is morally objectionable and a violation of free enterprise.

In addition, as an amateur radio operator (KD7KLG) I have looked to the FCC to be fair and impartial in setting regulations concerning airway bands and frequencies. PLEASE apply this same fairness to this. It is wrong for any group to restrict the public access of information regardless of how it is obtained, as long as it is keeping with existing laws governing the airways. Based on that, I do not see how the FCC can even consider blocking access to legally transmitted media.

I urge the FCC in the strongest terms to reject the special interest arguments about satellite radio transmission and allow XM and Sirius the right to legally broadcast their program content to their subscribers.

Christopher Becker